

approved

Human Services Advisory Committee Minutes of November 28, 2012 Meeting

Present: Ethel Mantzaris (YSB), chair; Sara Anderson (Advocates for Children); Fred Goetz (Advisory Comm. on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities); Lorraine Kenowski (Member At Large); Joan Terry (Comm. on Aging); Kevin Grunwald (Staff)

Absent: Ron Baker (Member At Large); Dexter Eddy (Housing Authority); Bev Korba (Senior Center); Victoria Nimirowski (WAIM);

The minutes of the October 17, 2012 meeting were approved with one correction. Victoria Nimirowski represents WAIM on this committee.

Highlights – Kevin reported the following activity for the department.

- *Veterans Day Event.* An expanded social event was held at the Community Center this year. About 150 people attended the luncheon that was financed by private contributions.
- *FoodShare.* This program continues to distribute food every other Thursday at Wrights Way. In addition, about 80 Thanksgiving meals were distributed which were picked up in Bloomfield by the Public Works Department personnel.
- *Senior Services Social Worker.* One applicant met qualifications and was interviewed. That person was reluctant to accept the job for personal reasons. The job has been re-advertised and, in the meantime, Kevin hopes to be able to hire a temporary person to serve the seniors' needs.
- *Storm Response.* During the recent storm there was an emergency operations center open at the Municipal Building. Following the storm, the Community Center was open for meals, showers, and a source of power. All Meals on Wheels clients and some others were

- called to be sure they were safe and had sufficient food during the crisis.
- *Christmas/Holiday Giving*. The department is soliciting applications from those who need help at holiday time. It is also looking for sponsors for these clients.
 - *Mansfield Holiday Fund*. The department has assumed responsibility for this fund that was originally begun by the local Lions Club. The funds received are distributed according to need as determined by staff. Last year more than 50 families were assisted.

Transportation – Kevin reported that the Transportation Committee is looking for input as they prepare priorities. Ethel asked that we call or email Kevin with our suggestions on this matter.

Quarterly Report – Kevin distributed copies of his quarterly report that he noted follows a standard format used by all town departments.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry

Next Meeting
December 19, 2012